

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 MMO-04 /039 W
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R 121444Z JAN 76

FM AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2562

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

UNCLAS FRANKFURT 0236

DEPT ALSO FOR PA/PP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, GW

SUBJECT:POSSIBLE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN LAND HESSEN AND THE
STATE OF TEXAS

1. AT THE REQUEST OF MINISTER PRESIDENT OSSWALD,
DR. BOVERMANN, STATE SECRETARY IN THE STATE CHANCELLERY
OF LAND HESSEN, HAS RAISED WITH THE CONSUL GENERAL THE
POSSIBILITY OF SOME FORM OF PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENT
BETWEEN LAND HESSEN AND ONE OF THE AMERICAN STATES.
BOVERMANN HAS ALSO INFORMED US THAT THE HAS BEEN
IN TOUCH WITH AMBASSADOR KREKELER (FRG COORDINATOR FOR
THE BICENTENNIAL) AND THAT KREKELER MAY HAVE MENTIONED
THE POSSIBILITY TO GOVERNOR BRISCOE OF TEXAS OR HIS DEPUTY.
MOREOVER, BOVERMANN HAS TOLD US THAT KREKELER WITH WHOM
HE HAS BEEN IN TOUCH HAS NO OBJECTION IF THE MATTER IS
PURSUED THROUGH THIS CONSULATE GENERAL AND THE EMBASSY
THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

2. AT THIS POINT THE IDEAS ON PART OF THE LAND
HESSEN GOVERNMENT ARE STILL VAGUE. HOWEVER, THE FACT
IS THAT THE MINISTER PRESIDENT AND HIS ASSOCIATES ARE
DEFINITELY INTERESTED IN A
PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN HESSEN AND ONE OF
THE AMERICAN STATES, PERHAPS TEXAS. IF THE
SUGGESTION MEETS WITH INTEREST ON THE AMERICAN SIDE
THE NEXT STEP MIGHT BE A PREPARATORY VISIT, PERHAPS
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FIRST BY A SENIOR LAND GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL

TO BE FOLLOWED BY RECIPROCAL VISIT OF THE HESSEN MINISTER
PRESIDENT TO THE APPROPRIATE STATE CAPITAL AND THE
GOVERNOR OF THE PARTNERSHIP STATE TO THE CITY OF
WIESBADEN. OTHER ARRANGEMENTS GIVING EFFECT TO A
PARTNERSHIP COULD BE DISCUSSED DURING THESE VISITS.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: IT IS REQUESTED THAT STATE (PA)
AND/OR USIA FOLLOW UP INITIALLY ON THE DISCUSSION
WHICH AMBASSADOR KREKELER HAS ACCORDING TO OUR
INFORMATION, ALREADY HAD WITH GOVERNOR BRISCOE OR
HIS DEPUTY IN AUSTIN AND ADVISE US ACCORDINGLY. WHILE
THE LAND HESSEN AUTHORITIES ARE INTERESTED IN FOLLOWING
UP THE INITIATIVE WITH RESPECT TO TEXAS, THEY ARE
ENTIRELY WILLING TO CONSIDER ANOTHER STATE FOR SUCH A
PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENT IN THE EVENT THAT TEXAS SHOULD
FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER NOT PROVE FEASIBLE.
IN PRINCIPLE WE BELIEVE THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH
A LAND TO STATE RELATIONSHIP IS HIGHLY DESIRABLE
STEP IN THE INTEREST OF CLOSER GERMAN-AMERICAN
RELATIONS AND THAT WE SHOULD VIGOROUSLY PURSUE THIS
IDEA. LEHMANN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SISTER CITY PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976FRANKF00236
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760010-0893
From: FRANKFURT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760167/aaaachhc.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: mendozsm
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUN 2004 by barnescd>; APPROVED <16 SEP 2004 by mendozsm>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OSSIBLE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN LAND HESSEN AND THE STATE OF TEXAS
TAGS: SCUL, GE, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006